

## Summary

The present invention relates to a method for operating an internal combustion engine (1) having at least one triggerable intake valve (5) and at least one triggerable discharge valve (6), in which the internal combustion engine (1) is directly started in a start-up operating mode (100) and, following the start, is operated in at least one other operating mode (110).

A starting discharge instant of a discharge valve (6) of the internal combustion engine (1) that is used during the start-up operating mode (100) is retarded in time with respect to a standard discharge instant so as to improve the direct start-up characteristics of the internal combustion engine (1).

In addition, to further improve the direct start-up characteristics, it is possible to retard a closing instant of an intake valve (5) that is used during the start-up operating mode (100) with respect to a standard closing instant.

(Figure 1)